

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 5-8, 11 and 19 are currently amended, and claims 3-4 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 2 and 5-19 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 8-18 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8 and 11 have been rewritten to be in independent form, so it is believed that claims 8-18 are now allowable. The office action refers to overcoming a rejection under 35 USC §112, but no such rejection was set forth.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 25 07 213. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

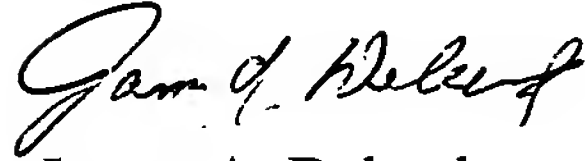
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a coupler flexibly couples a first base member body to a second base member body, wherein the coupler is mounted to laterally facing surfaces of the first base member body and the second base member body. DE 25 07 213 discloses a derailleur wherein an upper support comprises two parts (2) and (2a) connected by a hinge mounting. However, as clearly seen in Fig. 3, no structure of the hinge mounting is mounted to lateral side surfaces of the two parts (2) and (2a), and the unnumbered hinge pivot shaft is embedded in the two parts (2) and (2a). Thus, DE 25 07 213 neither discloses nor suggests a coupler mounted to laterally facing surfaces of a first base member body and a second base member body

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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